

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1 – 22 as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for evaluating a random number generator, the method comprising:

generating a stream of random numbers;

determining an average number of bits that have a value of a predetermined logic value at a predefined range of intervals using an exponential averaging operation; and

determining whether the random number generator is properly providing random numbers by comparing an output of the exponential averaging operation to a predetermined acceptance range; and

providing a notification regarding a status of the provided random numbers.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the value of the predetermined logic value is one of 1 and 0.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, including determining that the random number generator is not properly providing random numbers when the output of the exponential averaging operation falls outside the predetermined acceptance range.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, including notifying that the random number generator is not properly providing random numbers when the output of the exponential averaging operation falls outside the predetermined acceptance range.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, including updating the exponential averaging operation each time a new bit is generated.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 5, wherein the exponential averaging operation is updated according to the following equation:

$$A_{\text{new}} = \alpha \cdot A_{\text{old}} + b,$$

wherein $\alpha = 1 - 1/n$, $n \gg 1$, , and wherein b is a value of 1 when the predetermined logic value is obtained, otherwise 0.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, including generating a new set of random sequences when the output of the exponential averaging operation falls outside the predetermined acceptance range.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 6, wherein the predetermined acceptance range is defined as follows:

$$[n/2 - c \cdot \sqrt{n}, n/2 + c \cdot \sqrt{n}],$$

where c is selected to achieve a desired security threshold level.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for evaluating a random number generator, the method comprising:

(a) generating a stream of random numbers of binary bits using the random number generator;

(b) determining an average number of bits that have a value of a predetermined logic value at a specific, predefined range of intervals using an exponential averaging operation;

(c) comparing an output of the exponential averaging operation to a predetermined acceptance range; and

(d) determining that the random number generator is not properly operating when the output of the computed exponential averaging operation falls outside the predetermined acceptance range; and-

(e) providing a notification that the random number generator is not properly operating.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 9, including

repeating (a) - (d) until the output of the exponential averaging operation repeatedly falls outside the predetermined acceptance range more than a predefined number of times.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 9, including notifying that the random number generator is not properly operating when the output of the computed exponential averaging operation repeatedly falls outside the predetermined acceptance range more than a predefined number of times.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 9, including generating a new set of random numbers when the output of the computed exponential averaging operation repeatedly falls outside the predetermined acceptance range more than a predefined number of times.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 9, including updating the exponential averaging operation according to the following equation:

$$A_{\text{new}} = \alpha \cdot A_{\text{old}} + b,$$

wherein $\alpha = 1 - 1/n$, $n \gg 1$, and wherein b is a value of 1 when the predetermined logic value is obtained, otherwise 0.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 13, wherein the predetermined acceptance range is defined as follows:

$$[n/2 - c \cdot \sqrt{n}, n/2 + c \cdot \sqrt{n}],$$

where c is selected to achieve a desired security threshold level.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus, comprising:

a random generator unit for generating sequences of binary bits;

a detector unit, coupled to an output of the random generator unit, for detecting whether the generated random sequences are unpredictable; and,

a switching unit, coupled to the output of the random generator unit and an output of the detector unit, for disabling the flow of the sequences when the generated random sequences are determined to be predictable,

wherein

the detector unit is configured to:

determine an average number of bits that have a value of a predetermined logic value at a specific, predefined range of intervals using exponential averaging operations, and
 determine that the sequence is predictable if the output of the exponential averaging operations falls outside a predetermined acceptance range.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising means for transmitting an alarm signal when the output of the exponential averaging operation falls outside the predetermined acceptance range.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the exponential averaging operation is performed according to the following equation:

$$A_{\text{new}} = \alpha \cdot A_{\text{old}} + b,$$

wherein $\alpha = 1 - 1/n$, $n \gg 1$, and wherein b is a value of 1 when the predetermined logic value is obtained, otherwise 0.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the predetermined acceptance range is defined as follows:

$$[n/2 - c \cdot \sqrt{n}, n/2 + c \cdot \sqrt{n}],$$

where c is selected to achieve a desired security threshold level.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions, and the sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

generate a stream of random bits;

determine an average number of bits that have a value of a predetermined logic value at a specific, predefined range of intervals using an exponential averaging operation on the number of bits indicative of the predetermined logic value; and

compare an output of the exponential averaging operations to a predetermined acceptance range; and

provide a notification regarding the comparison.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The machine-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the generated random numbers are determined to be predictable when the computed exponential averaging operation falls outside the predetermined acceptance range.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The machine-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the exponential averaging operation is performed according to the following equation:

$$A_{\text{new}} = \alpha \cdot A_{\text{old}} + b,$$

wherein $\alpha = 1 - 1/n$, $n \gg 1$, and wherein b is a value of 1 when the predetermined logic value is obtained, otherwise 0.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the predetermined acceptance range is defined as follows:

$$[n/2 - c \cdot \sqrt{n}, n/2 + c \cdot \sqrt{n}],$$

where c is selected to achieve a desired security threshold level.